

**Senate File 415 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 415  
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN  
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1039)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act allowing an advanced registered nurse practitioner and a  
2 physician assistant to sign a death certificate.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 142C.8, subsection 10, Code 2011, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 10. The physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner,  
4 or physician assistant who attends the decedent at death and  
5 the physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or  
6 physician assistant who determines the time of death shall not  
7 participate in the procedures for removing or transplanting a  
8 part from the decedent.

9 Sec. 2. Section 144.26, subsection 1, Code 2011, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 1. a. A death certificate for each death which occurs  
12 in this state shall be filed as directed by the state  
13 registrar within three days after the death and prior to final  
14 disposition, and shall be registered by the county registrar  
15 if it has been completed and filed in accordance with this  
16 chapter. A death certificate shall include the social security  
17 number, if provided, of the deceased person. All information  
18 including the certifying physician's, advanced registered  
19 nurse practitioner's, or physician assistant's name shall be  
20 typewritten, unless submitted electronically.

21 b. An advanced registered nurse practitioner or physician  
22 assistant authorized to certify a death shall be licensed in  
23 this state; shall have been in charge of the deceased patient's  
24 care; and shall have successfully completed a training  
25 course relating to the preparation and completion of a death  
26 certificate which has been approved by the department of public  
27 health by rule.

28 Sec. 3. Section 144.28, subsection 1, paragraphs b and e,  
29 Code 2011, are amended to read as follows:

30 b. Unless there is a nonnatural cause of death, the medical  
31 certification shall be completed and signed by the physician,  
32 advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant  
33 in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition  
34 which resulted in death within seventy-two hours after  
35 receipt of the death certificate from the funeral director or

1 individual who initially assumes custody of the body.

2 e. If upon inquiry into a death, the county or state medical  
3 examiner determines that a preexisting natural disease or  
4 condition was the likely cause of death and that the death does  
5 not affect the public interest as described in section 331.802,  
6 subsection 3, the medical examiner may elect to defer to the  
7 physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician  
8 assistant in charge of the patient's preexisting condition the  
9 certification of the cause of death.

10

EXPLANATION

11 This bill allows an advanced registered nurse practitioner  
12 or a physician assistant to sign a death certificate, unless  
13 there is a nonnatural cause of death. The bill requires such  
14 persons to be licensed in Iowa, have been in charge of the  
15 deceased patient's care, and have successfully completed a  
16 training course relating to death certificates.